

COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION SUMMARY

COMPLAINT NUMBER:	1619.00
COMPLAINT INVESTIGATOR:	Jane Taylor-Holmes
DATE OF COMPLAINT:	September 19, 2000
DATE OF REPORT:	October 19, 2000
REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION:	no
DATE OF CLOSURE:	December 4, 2000

COMPLAINT ISSUES:

Whether the Gary Community School Corporation violated:

511 IAC 7-21-5 with regard to the school's alleged failure to provide instructional space for speech therapy students that is comparable to the space and instructional environment for general education students in the same building.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

1. The student receives speech and language services ("Speech") at the School.
2. The complainant (the "Complainant") asserts that the instructional space used for providing Speech is also used by another teacher while students are receiving Speech, and that there have been numerous disruptions, such as music playing, a computer running, and parent conferences during Speech sessions.
3. The local director of special education (the "Director") reported that the instructional space is comparable in size to general education classrooms, and it is appropriate for the provision of Speech. The Director also reported that the School facilitator is housed in that classroom; however, this individual uses the classroom for meetings on the days that the speech/language pathologist (the "SLP") is at another school.
4. In an undated letter faxed to the Division on October 5, 2000, the principal (the "Principal") of the School reported that it was the SLP who wrote the letter of complaint. On October 2, 2000, the Principal and the assistant principal met with the Complainant regarding the complaint, and were informed that the Complainant did not write the letter of complaint, nor did she read it prior to signing it. The Complainant told the Principal and the assistant principal that she signed the letter because she was asked by the SLP in order to help the SLP get a larger classroom.

CONCLUSIONS:

1. Findings of Fact #1 through #3 indicate that the instructional space used for providing Speech is comparable to general education instructional space. Further, Finding of Fact #4 indicates that it was the SLP who wrote the letter of complaint and then asked the Complainant to sign it in an effort to help the SLP get a larger classroom. No violation of 511 IAC 7-21-5 has occurred.

The Department of Education, Division of Special Education requires no corrective action based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions listed above.

